COMIC SHOP NEWS™



Infinity Crusade ™&©1993 Marvel Comics, ARR.

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Comics Debut in June

Movie fans are treated to coming attractions before the main feature. Starting in June, comic fans will have the same opportunity with the release of ***Comics Debut***. ***Comics Debut #1*** features seven full-sized, full color sneak previews of the major comic releases due out in July from seven top publishers.

Comics Debut #1 is scheduled to include: ***Youngblood/Bloodstrike: Deathmatch #1***, the first issue of the mega-crossover from Valiant & Image; She-Bat vs. Spawn in ***She-Bat #3***'s titanic team-up by Neal Adams & Todd McFarlane from Continuity; ***Aliens vs. Predator #1***, written by Chris Claremont from Dark Horse; ***Freex #1***, which expands the Malibu Ultraverse; as well as ***Madman Adventures*** by Michael Allred from Tundra and two more sneak previews to be announced. Each full-sized, color preview is five pages long.

Says co-editor Ward Batty, "The market is becoming more segmented into 'Marvel Zombies' and 'Image Zombies,' and so on. Fans will pick up ***Comics Debut*** to check out titles from a favorite publisher or two and will then be exposed to several comics from other publishers that they don't normally check out as well. This 'cross-pollinating' will benefit everyone from publishers who gain new customers, to retailers, to readers who will see that a great comic comes from any of a number of publishers."

Adds co-editor Cliff Biggers, "***Comics Debut*** is unlike anything available today. The vast majority of each issue is devoted to the previews. Each preview will have a special introduction, often by the comic creators themselves." ***Comics Debut*** will be printed at one of the major comic printers and will be released the third week of each month. Since it will be published by the editors of ***Comic Shop News***, everyone knows it will be released on time. "After all," says Batty, "Our motto is 'Every Issue's On Time Or We'll Eat A Bug' and we haven't had to eat a bug after 300 issues of ***CSN***."

Comics Debut #1, a full-color comic-magazine, is 48 pages with a special low cover price of 99¢. "This is about half what a 48-page comic usually goes for," says Biggers, "but with much of the material is provided by the publishers, we want to keep the magazine as inexpensive as possible to encourage more readers to pick it up. After all, everybody loves a bargain."

by Wayne Lee



Chain Gang War Has Links To DC Universe

A number of vigilante heroes have devoted themselves to violently punishing the criminals the law can't reach; the Chain Gang have another solution to the problem, though. They don't see themselves as judge, jury, and executioner; instead, they're judge, jury, and prison warden!

Chain Gang War, a new monthly series written by Alan Grant and John Wagner (writer of ***Batman/Judge Dredd: Judgment on Gotham***) and illustrated by Dave Johnson (artist of the *Earth Boys* in ***Dark Horse Presents*** and the upcoming ***Super Patriot*** series from Image) and John Dell, is a gritty, hard-hitting series that focuses on the less scrupulous underside of the DC Universe... the world in which amoral street thugs, criminal scum, and scurrilous super-villains operate.

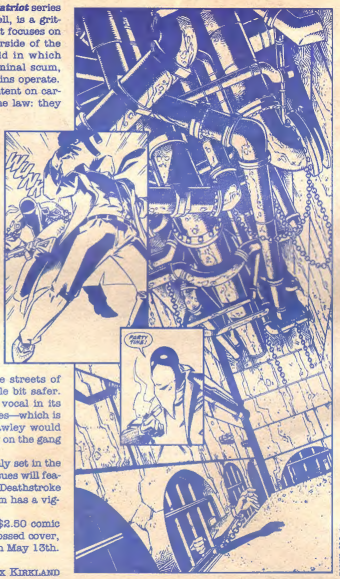
The Chain Gang are intent on carrying out the intent of the law: they imprison criminals. Many of their targets have avoided prison through careful manipulation of the judicial system, so the Chain Gang has created a prison system that no criminal can elude—because the Chain Gang are both the judges who sentence the criminals and the wardens who oversee their confinement in the House of Correction, a dungeon located far below the Strand Mansion.

Some policemen want to put the Chain Gang out of business; others would like to congratulate them for making the streets of New York City just a little bit safer. The public is even more vocal in its support for these vigilantes—which is why reporter Marian Hawley would love to get the inside story on the gang and their operations.

Chain Gang War is firmly set in the DC Universe; upcoming issues will feature such guest stars as Deathstroke and Batman, each of whom has a vigilante streak of his own.

Chain Gang War #1, a $2.50 comic with a foil-enhanced embossed cover, is scheduled for release on May 15th.

by Alex Kirkland



Infinity Crusade Gives Peace a Chance

For more than thirty years now, Marvel's superheroes have battled evil threats, machiavellian plots, schemes for world domination, and forces of destruction. In ***The Infinity Crusade***, the third (and final?) segment of the Infinity series, Warlock and a few other Marvel heroes face a different threat—impending peace.

But isn't that just what they WANT?...

Not quite, as it turns out. The "impending peace," in this case, is part of a scheme by Warlock's good persona, the Goddess; she will stop at nothing to bring about her plan for world peace, even if it means that she must send heroes (like Warlock) into a distant dimension for opposing her, as other heroes avidly support the Goddess, embracing her philosophy wholeheartedly in order to achieve her goals. And there begins the conflict...

The Infinity Crusade is written by Jim Starlin, who also wrote ***The Infinity Gauntlet*** and ***The Infinity War***, the six-issue miniseries is illustrated by Ron Lim, who illustrated most of the former miniseries and all of the latter. The series will, of course, tie in with a number of other Marvel titles, including issues of ***Alpha Flight, Avengers, Avengers West Coast, Dr. Strange, Iron Man, Thor, Terror, Inc.***, and ***Warlock & The Infinity Watch***; in addition, the series will spin off a new May-debut Marvel title, ***The Warlock Chronicles***, illustrated by Tom Raney and also written by Jim Starlin.

The Infinity Crusade #1, a $3.50 48-page comic with a special holografix foil cover, is scheduled for April 28th release. Subsequent 48-page issues of the series are priced at $2.50.

by Wayne Lee

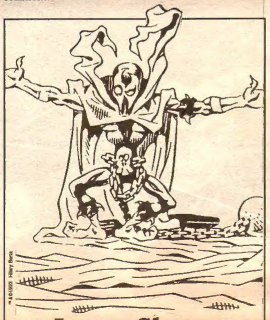


Image Shows Smarts With Stupid

Image Comics has been very profitable for a number of people—and not all of them work for Image. Since the company's launch just a little more than a year ago, it seems that an entire cottage industry of Image spoofs, parodies, and satires has flooded the comic shop racks; in some cases, parodies of Image titles have appeared well before the books actually reached the stands! With companies devoting half their line to Image satires, it's no wonder that Image has decided that no one is better prepared to poke fun at the company and its characters than Image itself—which is exactly what the intend to do with ***Stupid***, a new quarterly series debuting in May.

Stupid, created by Hilary Barta and Doug Rice, is billed by Image as "the first intentionally funny Image Comic." (Of course, that's not entirely true: the recently-released ***Splitting Image***, a satirical look at the origins of Image Comics, managed to pack quite a few intentional chuckles in its 32 pages... in fact, in a way, it can be looked at as the conceptual precursor of ***Stupid***, proving that Image can poke fun at itself as well as anyone else can.) The book will not only feature parodies of Image books, but it will also feature original characters created by Barta and Rice.

"This is the funniest stuff I've ever done," Barta said, "even if I do say so myself. And I guess I just did."

Stupid #1 will lead off with Spewn, a satire of the first four issues of ***Spawn***; in this series, Spewn arrives in New York City, fresh from hell, to "reclaim his lost love... endowed with indescribable powers and a cool costume with enough cape for God's hankie!" Soon, he meets an adversary who collects the hearts of fans and pros alike (that's right: Barta has created the first cardia-collecting villain!).

Future issues of ***Stupid*** will target other Image star series, including Erik Larsen's ***Savage Dragon***, Jim Lee's ***Deathblow***, and rob Liefeld's ***Youngblood***. According to Barta, the ***Stupid*** creators won't rest until they've managed to hit the entire Image line-up with their pointed humor... and judging from Image's rapidly-growing line, that'll keep 'em busy for a long time to come!

Stupid #1, a $1.95 comic, is scheduled for May release.

by Cliff Biggers

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Adam Stranger

Green Lantern fans have met Green Lanterns of various life-forms, including plant-based Green Lanterns, crystal-based Green Lanterns, and more. In ***Green Lantern Corps Quarterly #5,*** though, they're introduced to a most unusual Green Lantern: his name is Adam, and he's the one and only being of his race. Adam belongs to a unique species (and is, in fact, the entire species; there are no more!) that, phoenix-like, is reborn from the dead body of its previous self, alias, the death and rebirth process doesn't pass along the acquired knowledge of its earlier incarnation. That's where the ring comes in: Adam's power ring is a storehouse of his species' acquired knowledge, enabling him to remember his role as a Green Lantern as well as making it possible for him to pass along the benefits of his experience to future Adams. Adam is introduced in "Adam This Time," the cover-featured story in ***Green Lantern Quarterly #5;*** the debut adventure is written by *Elliot Si Maggin* and illustrated by *Franchesco* and *Bob Dvorak*. The 64-page issue also presents new adventures of Alan Scott, G'nort, and Itty. ***Green Lantern Corps Quarterly #5,*** a $2.50 comic, is scheduled for April 22nd release.

Archie Adds a New Corps Title

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Meet the Conservation Corps, a 64-page special released last fall, was the second-highest-selling Archie title for the month of its release; furthermore, its environmentally aware heroes garnered a great deal of publicity in their initial appearance. It's no surprise, then, that Archie has announced their intention to bring these heroes back in their very own three-issue miniseries. "When we last left our heroes, they were searching for their fifth member," *Paul Castiglia* said, "who they've never met. Will the miniseries reveal his/her identity? There's only one way to find out... don't miss an issue!"



Conservation Corps #1, a $1.25 comic written by *Paul Castiglia* and illustrated by *Dan Nakrosis,* is scheduled for May 20th release. It won't be appearing under the Archie imprint, though; according to Castiglia, Archie is so proud of the environmentally-aware heroes that they're giving the book its own brand-new imprint (the name of that imprint will be announced later on). Keep an eye out for the first issue of the comic—because it won't be too long before you'll be seeing the Conservation Corps in toy shops, on television, and as the environmental spokesmascots of one of the largest children's environmental organizations in the world... and you can be sure that, once all that happens, the early issues of their comics are going to be hard to come by!

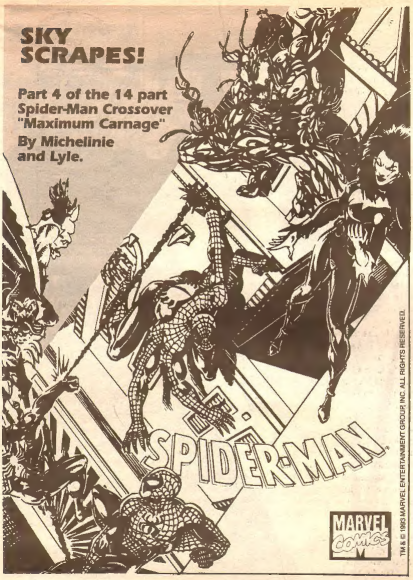
Maximortal, Mini-Price

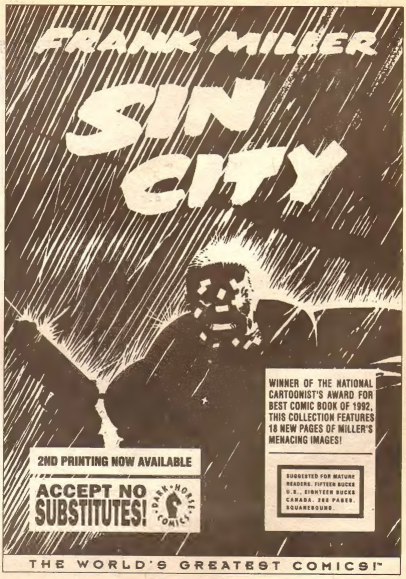
Maximortal, *Rick Veitch*'s revisionist superhero series published by Tundra, just became a bit more affordable. According to Tundra, "because Rick Veitch and Tundra Publishing want ***The Maximortal*** to be accessible to the entire mature readers consumer base, we are lowering the price, starting with issue #3, to $2.95. The series offers an intriguing alternative view of what might happen if an incredibly powerful alien were sent to Earth, where his powers would make him the mightiest being on the planet (sound at all familiar?...). ***Maximortal #4*** is scheduled for May release.

A Legendary Trade Paperback

Legends, the miniseries that reintroduced the Justice League to the DC Universe several year ago, is slated for trade paperback release this June. The six-issue miniseries, which pits the DC heroes against Darkseid and his minions, is co-written by *John Ostrander* and *Len Wein* and illustrated by *John Byrne* and *Karl Kesel*. *John Byrne* contributed an all-new cover to the trade paperback collection. ***Legends,*** a 160-page book priced at $9.95, is scheduled for June 10th release.

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A Golden Foil Cover... and More

Continuity Comics' **Deathwatch 2000** crossover series, set for a massive launch this April, will kick off with a stunning *Michael Golden* cover on the first installment in ***Armor #1.*** The foil-embossed cover is specially designed by Golden to make maximum use of the dimensionality offered by the foil embossing; Golden will pencil, ink, and color the cover himself. According to Continuity, "Golden was intrigued and challenged when offered the chance to create an image that will push the main character forward to the ultimate degree."

A month later, Golden goes a step beyond his first cover with a special cover designed for the first-ever laser-die-cut cover on ***Armor #3.*** "Golden's layout features Armor fighting to the death with several members of the Hellbenders while mysterious flames shoot all around him," Continuity's news release said. "The energy tendrils and explosions will be laser die-cut to reveal who... or what... is launching destruction at Armor. This laser process is incredibly intricate, able to die-cut the smallest forms... razor-thin." Behind the Golden cover lurks the villain responsible for the attack—and we mean that literally! *Neal Adams* is drawing a special image that will be hidden by the laser die-cut cover; once the book is opened, it will reveal the villain's identity. "It was an opportunity to create a collaborative comic book cover," Associate Publisher *Kristine Adams* said of the unique cover design.

Each $2.50 book will be polybagged along with two exclusive trading cards, one featuring Continuity's heroes as rendered by top comic artists, and the other a promo card for the upcoming Classic Cards' **Deathwatch 2000** series. Look for ***Armor #1,*** written by *Peter Stone* and *Neal Adams*, pencilled by *Sal Velluto*, and inked by *Rudy Nebres*, in April.

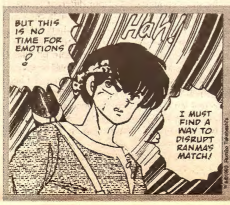
The Greening of the Legion



The Legionnaires' first meeting with the new Emerald Empress doesn't appear to be too pleasant for our heroes; she launches her attack on the Legionnaires by targeting Inferno and Live Wire, who probably don't feel any too lucky to have received such special attention. But if Inferno and Live Wire are doing battle with the Emerald Empress, then who is the Emerald Empress that Mano and the Persuader meet? ... ***Legionnaires #4,*** a May 13th release, is written by *Tom and Mary Bierbaum* and illustrated by *Chris Sprouse* and *Karl Story.*

A Mid-Life Crisis?

Lots of people go through a mid-life crisis when they turn thirty; it appears that Matt Murdock, a.k.a. Daredevil, is no exception to the trend. ***Daredevil #325*** is Daredevil's thirtieth anniversary issue; in the six months leading up to the anniversary issue, Daredevil will undergo several changes, including "a new costume, a new identity, and an old flame that will all play major roles in Daredevil's new direction," according to Marvel's *Kevin Tang.* The book will even get a new logo design to clearly differentiate the "new" Daredevil from the "old" Daredevil. The changes begin in ***Daredevil #319,*** the first installment of the six-part "Fall From Grace" storyline by *Dan Chichester, Scott McDaniel,* and *Bud LaRosa.* Marvel assures fans that these changes aren't minor alterations implemented just for this storyline; beginning with ***Daredevil #326,*** the hero will have a new look, a new style, and a new attitude. ***Daredevil #319,*** a $1.25 comic, is scheduled for June 3rd release.

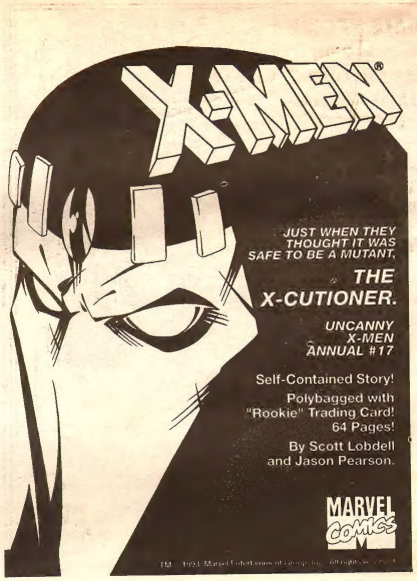


Ranma 1/2 In 1 Book

Ranma 1/2, *Rumiko Takahashi*'s lighthearted adventure about a boy who is sometimes a girl (no sexual confusion here—the problem is the result of magic, which causes Ranma to metamorphose a girl when exposed to cold water. If that's not bad enough, you might consider his father's plight: he becomes a giant panda when exposed to hot water!

Ranma 1/2 Part One was such a hit for Viz that the early issues sold out almost immediately upon release. To satisfy reader demand and make it easy for new fans to catch up on the events that occurred prior to the current ***Ranma 1/2 Part Two*** series, Viz is reprinting the entire ***Ranma 1/2 Part One*** storyline in a massive compilation volume that features over three hundred pages of story and art. ***Ranma 1/2 Part One,*** a May release, is priced at $16.95.





APRIL HOT PICKS!

by cliff biggers

No, it's not summertime... it's April. I know how you might be confused; after all, this is the largest single month in comic book history, with more major books and more significant publishing events occurring than have ever hit the comic book shelves in a single month before. With this many top-notch choices vying for our attention, we were faced with real problems narrowing the selection down to two dozen hot picks!



1963 1: MYSTERY, INC.

If you remember the early Marvel Comics Silver Age with any fondness at all, then you'll find a great deal of reading pleasure in the first issue of ***1963***. Within five pages, Alan Moore manages to invoke the feel of that bygone era so well that you'll have trouble convincing yourself that this isn't a Silver Age classic. No book has so earnestly and successfully paid homage to its roots since... well, since Alan Moore treated fans to his interpretation of Superman some seven years ago! *(Image, $1.95)*

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN 500

Superman is back... isn't he? Then again, maybe he isn't—after all, DC isn't guaranteeing that any of these four Supermen are the real thing. Nevertheless, fans and non-fans who were caught up in the Death of Superman mania are going to make this return issue one of the biggest comic book events of 1993. This book picks up where "Funeral For a Friend" left off, and virtually everyone who followed that storyline will consider this a real must-have. And this time around, fans can enjoy the deluxe collectors' version of the comic without worrying whether they should open the sealed polybag or not—because there is no polybag, just a unique vellum cover and extra interior pages not available in the regular edition. Of course, lots of fans are going to want one of each edition... *(DC, $2.95/$2.50)*



ACTION COMICS 687
ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN 501
SUPERMAN 78
SUPERMAN: MAN OF STEEL 22

From ***Adventures of Superman #500,*** the story continues into four different books, each spotlighting one of the possible Supermen. "Reign of the Supermen" offers further clues as to the fate of the Man of Steel; undoubtedly, one of the more popular fan-games for the next few months will be speculating on which of these Supermen might be the real McCoy... and no one's going to want to feel left out of the fun! Once again, there are special collectors' editions of each book as well as standard editions—and again, lots of fans are going to want copies of both, so don't pass 'em by while you have the chance. *(DC, $1.95/$1.50)*

DALE KEOWN COVER ON MALIBU COMICS FIRST OFFICIAL CROSSOVER!

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DINOSAURS FOR HIRE And EX-MUTANTS Team Up In DINOSAURS FOR HIRE #3!

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Color Cover By DALE KEOWN

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Created And Written By Tom Mason

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Illustrated by Mitch Byrd and Bruce McCorkindale

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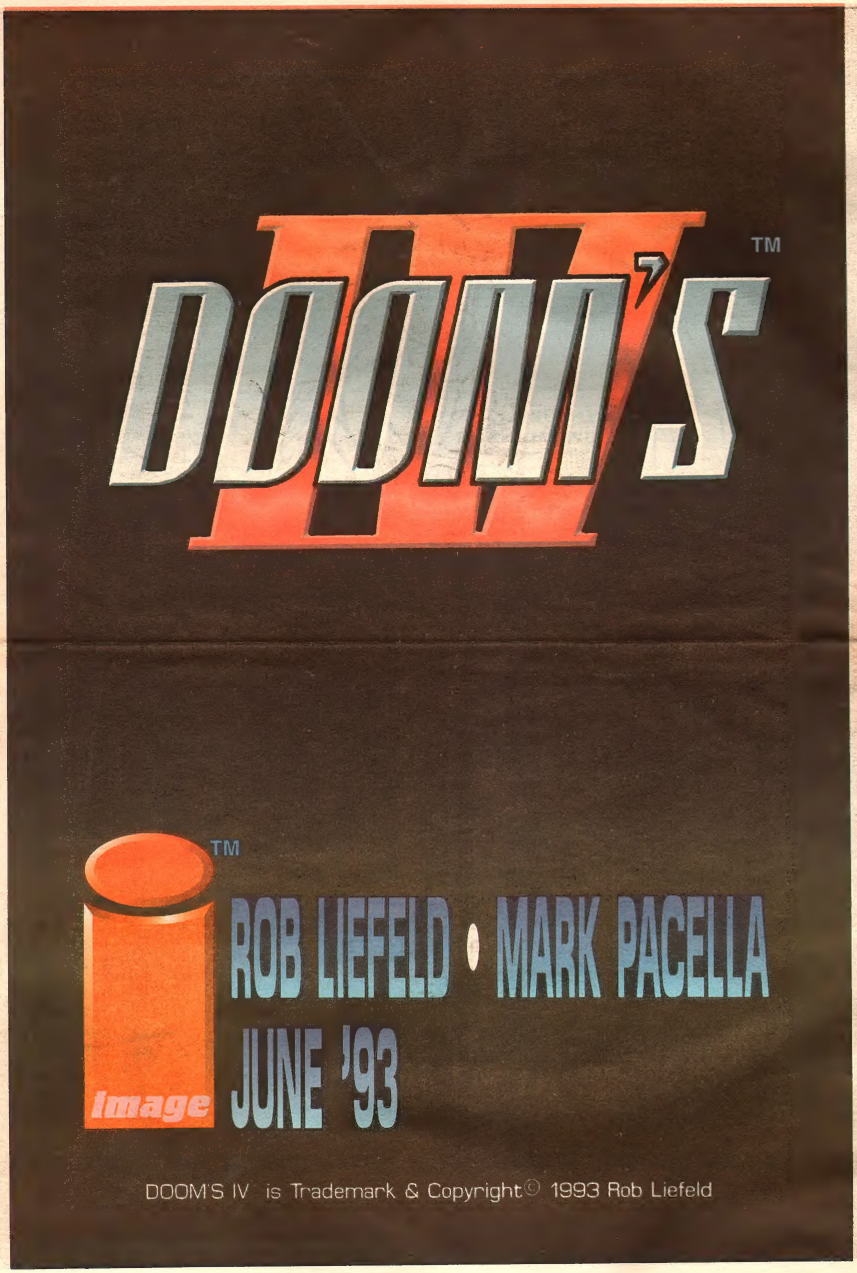
Guest Pin-Ups by EX-MUTANTS Artist Paul Pelletier

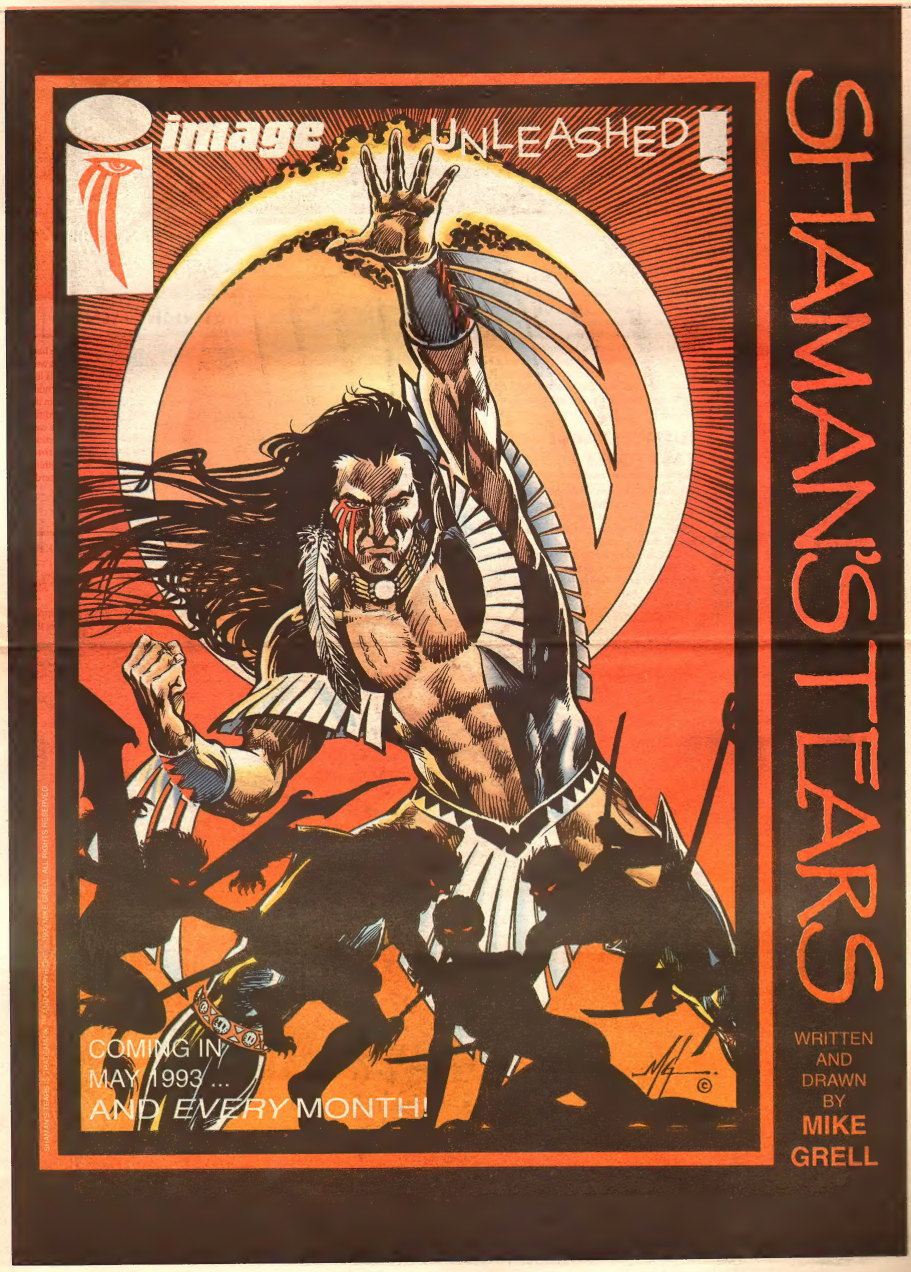
MALIBU COMICS



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WHEN ONE IS STRUCK... ANOTHER TAKES HIS PLACE.
ZZZ


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CSN HOT PICKS

BRIGADE: THE SERIES 1

Another successful Image miniseries is promoted to full series status—and once again, this'll be a surefire Image first-issue sellout. The first issue focuses on Bloodstrike, one of the most popular Brigade characters; combine that with the incredible popularity of super-team books with that Image logo in the corner and you can almost hear the sizzle. *(Image, $1.95)*



DEATH STATUE

Have you tried to locate a ***Sandman Statue*** recently? Even if you can find one—which certainly isn't easy!—you'll probably have to shell out several hundred dollars for it. Bearing that in mind, perhaps you know why we're pretty confident that a companion statue featuring Sandman's ever-popular sister is going to have a very short shelf-life indeed. *(DC, $100 list price; price may rise based on availability)*

DREDD BY BISLEY

Sales on ***Dredd Rules!*** soared when Fleetway/Quality added Simon Bisley stories to the mix; that's no surprise, considering Bisley's incredible popularity. A compilation volume reprinting those stories would certainly be a popular book—but when you supplement the reprints with Bisley stories previously unpublished in America, you get a surefire sellout. *(Fleetway/Quality, $5.95)*

INFINITY CRUSADE 1

The final miniseries in the Infinity trilogy begins this month, starring some of the most powerful heroes in the Marvel Universe—that's one strong selling point. It's written by Jim Starlin and illustrated by Ron Lim—that's two more strong selling points. And it features a holografx foil cover—and that's the final element that'll make ***Infinity Crusade*** a spring scorcher. *(Marvel, $3.50)*

JUSTICE LEAGUE TASK FORCE 1

DC adds a rotating line-up ***Justice League*** title to its line with this new series; J'onn J'onnz is the leader of this task-force team whose membership varies based on the demands of each mission. In an interesting twist, DC is keeping the same artist on the book—Sal Velluto, whose work recently appeared in Marvel's ***Moon Knight***—but is using different writers for each story arc. Look for some of DC's most popular heroes to show up in this series. *(DC, $1.25)*

MARVEL UNIVERSE SERIES IV TRADING CARDS

Skybox has batted a thousand with its Marvel cards: every series they've produced thus far has sold out soon after release, and the product has consistently been among the best-produced cards in the comic-card market. ***Marvel Universe Series IV*** will be no exception; in fact, a lot of fans who hesitated a bit too long when the ***Marvel Masterpiece Cards*** first came out may be particularly eager to complete a set of these cards now, while the getting is good. *(Skybox, $1.25/pack)*

OVERLOOKED

Heavy Metal Magazine, the American version of France's ***Metal Hurlant***, once epitomized the cutting edge of comics; many of us met Moebius and other European creators through the pages of ***Heavy Metal***, long before American comic companies offered their own editions of European comics. For the past few years, Heavy Metal has been a bit less hip and trendy—but in recent issues, the magazine has been attracting more big names from both sides of the Atlantic. Now, ***Heavy Metal*** is adding a new high-tech magazine, ***Heavy Metal Hardware***, featuring work by Simon Bisley and other well-known comic book creators from America, England, and Europe. If you haven't taken a look at ***Heavy Metal*** recently, here's a perfect opportunity to see just what ***Heavy Metal*** has to offer—and you get to pick up the premiere issue of a new magazine at the same time! *(Metal Mammoth, $3.95)*

SIZZLER!



MIDNIGHT MEN 1

Anything from Howard Chaykin is going to have a solid fan appeal; a new action-hero series written and illustrated by Chaykin, though, is like a dream come true. Chaykin has done a number of cutting-edge comic book series in the past few years, but he has either written the books for another artist (as was the case with ***Twilight***) or the books weren't action-hero material (***The Stars My Destination*** and ***Black Kiss***). Here, everything comes together...and Chaykin fans can hardly wait! *(Marvel/Epic, $2.50)*

PHANTOM FORCE 1

Thanks to the Image Comics guys, Jack Kirby wins a much-deserved place on the Hot Picks list. There's no one who's contributed more to the look and feel of modern comics than Jack Kirby, but his output has been diminished in recent years and a lot of newer fans know him by reputation only. ***Phantom Force*** gives the





Image crew a chance to introduce new fans to Kirby—and since Rob Liefeld, Todd McFarlane, and others have inked the King's pencils, it'll give all of us a chance to see some intriguing artistic collaborations. And those bonus trading cards polybagged in with the first issue certainly won't hurt matters... *(Image, $2.50)*

RAVER 1

Star Trek fans have a tremendous loyalty to the series and its stars—and even though ***Raver*** isn't a ***Star Trek*** book, it is a new comic book series written by ***Star Trek***'s Walter Koenig, and that's going to guarantee it an eager audience. William Shatner's venture into sf-adventure comics, ***TekWorld,*** has met with solid sales success—and Shatner isn't even writing that book. Walter Koenig is writing ***Raver,*** though; in fact, the book is an original creation for comics rather than an adaptation of a novel. ***Raver*** also has some solid artwork by Dan and David Day that should please all the fans who pick it up on the strength of Koenig's name. *(Malibu, $2.95 for the special comic shop edition, $1.95 for the standard edition)*

SANDMAN 50

From its metallic-ink-on-black cover to its glorious P. Craig Russell lead story to its bonus pin-ups, this is quite possibly going to be the most visually stunning book of 1993. ***Sandman***'s audience has been increasing steadily on the basis of the book's mature, sophisticated storylines and complex characterization; a gala anniversary issue with eye-catching cover enhancements and a top-notch stand-alone story is going to afford everyone the opportunity to try Sandman for themselves... and we suspect they will... *(Vertigo/DC, $2.95)*

SEBASTIAN O

Here's another hot pick for discriminating fans who want a book that's a great read. ***Sebastian O*** has built-in creator appeal thanks to writer Grant Morrison's high-profile reputation as one of Vertigo's major talents; it also has a great alternate-reality plotline and a unique look, thanks to artist Steve Yeowell. Like other Vertigo books, though, it's the thought-provoking storyline that's going to make this book truly hot... and isn't that the way it should be? *(Vertigo/DC, $1.95)*

SPIDER-MAN UNLIMITED 1

Maximum Carnage starts here. That pretty much says it all, doesn't it? (And just in case it doesn't, I'll expand upon that thought slightly: Tom DeFalco wrote it, Ron Lim drew it, it guest-stars Venom and Carnage, and it's the first part of a fourteen-part storyline that runs through all four ongoing Spider-Man titles. Now you see why it's going to be a scorcher, right?...) *(Marvel, $3.95)*



STAR WARS: DARK EMPIRE TPB

If you remember how incredibly hot Dark Horse's ***Star Wars: Dark Empire*** miniseries was last year, then you also remember how many people missed out on the first couple of issues of this superlative series. Well, this trade paperback offers everyone a chance to have the whole story in a single volume, along with some bonus material. And if you think a trade paperback can't be hot... well, remember how tough it was to lay your hands on a copy of ***Aliens Vs. Predator*** just a few short weeks after its first trade paperback release? *(Dark Horse, $16.95)*

THUNDERSTRIKE 1

A new version of Thor, a new first issue, and a great holografx foil cover: these are the ingredients for another surefire premiere-issue sellout. *(Marvel, $2.95)*

THE TROUBLE WITH GIRLS 1

When you take away the parodies and the satires, you aren't left with very many truly funny comic books—but of those that are left, ***The Trouble With Girls*** was consistently one of the best. Now, after far too many months' absence, Lester Girls is back in action (although if he had his way, his life would be pleasantly mundane and boring). Writers Will Jacobs and Gerard Jones haven't lost their clever, irreverent edge—and artist Bret Blevins gives ***The Trouble With Girls*** its slickest look ever. There's a real possibility that this book has been underordered, so keep an eye out for it. *(Marvel/Epic, $2.50)*

TUROK: DINOSAUR HUNTER 1

If you have any doubts about how hot ***Turok, Dinosaur Hunter*** is going to be, just try to track down copies of Turok's early appearances in ***Magnus Robot Fighter*** or ***X-O Manowar.*** (If you find 'em, you may not be able to afford them!) Now, combine the current appeal of the character with the super-hot chromium cover format that helped make ***Bloodshot*** an instant sellout and with stunning Bart Sears artwork and you have another Valiant megahit. *(Valiant, $3.50)*

WILDCATS TRADE PAPERBACK

Want a copy of ***WildCATs #0***? The only way you'll get it is to buy this affordably-priced trade paperback, because ***WildCATs #0*** is polybagged in with the reprint book. Since there are oodles of fans out there who'd eagerly pay $9.95 for ***WildCATs #0*** alone, you know that this package is going to have a super-short shelf life. *(Image, $9.95)*

X-MEN UNLIMITED 1

Remember the incredible response to Marvel's previous ***X-Men*** first issue? Do we need to say any more? *(Marvel, $3.95)*

APRIL: A MAJOR MONTH

In addition to the two dozen Hot Picks listed in this column, there are a number of important crossover storylines, imprint debuts, and major plotlines that deserve special mention.

Ania unveils its line of Afrocentric comics this month; these books feature black heroes in ad-







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WILDC.A.T.S: THE TRILOGY • MAY '93

STORY BY DAFYDD WYN AND BRANDON CHOI

image

ventures written and illustrated by black creators. Ania's publishers have already built an impressive niche market for their comics via Afrocentric bookstores; now they've united to introduce their books to comic fans across the country. These books include exclusive Erik Larsen trading cards, which should be a real attention-getter.

Topps is premiering its Secret City titles this month; these books, created by comics legend Jack Kirby, tie in with the upcoming ***Secret City Saga*** series as well. A lot of the creators working on these series worked with Jack Kirby in the old Marvel Bullpen days, including Steve Ditko, Dick Ayers, and John Severin. Topps is strongly supporting this line with incentive comics, exclusive trading cards polybagged with each book, and more.

Continuity's major reentry in the comics market, Deathwatch 2000, also begins this month. This mega-crossover series reintroduces ***Megalith, Armor, CyberRad, Ms. Mystic,*** and



Secret City Saga

other Continuity series; it also introduces the new Neal Adams-illustrated series ***Valeria the She-Bat***. Continuity is offering incentive comics, exclusive trading cards, promo cards, and cover enhancements to make these books stand out on very crowded comic racks.

Spider-Man Unlimited #1 is a Hot Pick this month, but Spidey fans are going to want every installment of Maximum Carnage, which runs in all four Spidey titles for the next three months. Demand for ***Web*** and ***Spectacular,*** traditionally the softest of the Spidey titles, should skyrocket.

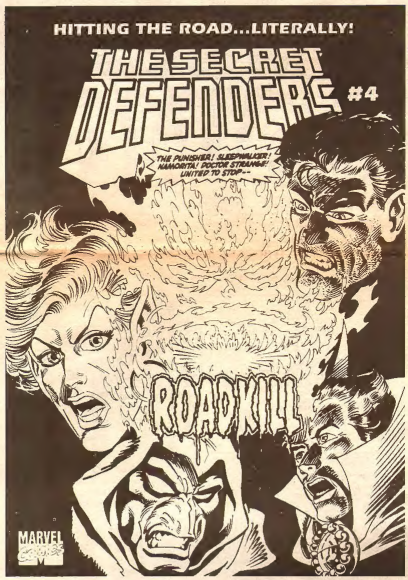
There's a lot of excitement building up over the "Knightfall" storyline running every week in Batman and Detective Comics for the next few months. There are some *major* changes coming in ***Batman #500***—and fans who missed out on the early installments of Superman's "Doomsday" storyline are determined not to be left out a second time.

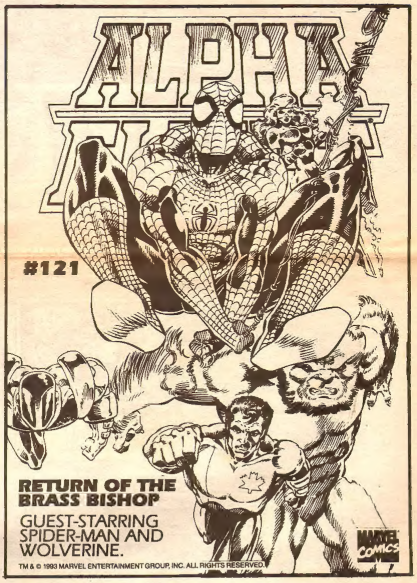
Last Week *CSN* featured the complete April Checklist. If you have to haul around some phonebook-like object just to know what's coming, well that's not our fault, now, is it?

Next Week *CSN* will feature a big gob o' reviews. Be here!

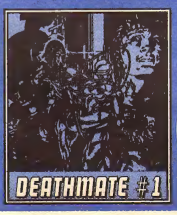
COMIC SHOP NEWS

MISS A WEEK AND YOU MISS A LOT!





7 COLOR PREVIEWS!
Youngblood - Bloodshot: Deathmate #1, She-Bat vs. Spawn, Aliens vs. Predator #1, Freex #1, and Madman Adventures. Plus Two More Sneak Previews To Be Announced! Ships in June.



See It FIRST In:
comics debut
#1 Coming Attractions for July

MARVEL HOT PICKS



SPIDER-MAN #36
Part 8 of the explosive "Maximum Carnage" crossover!



SPYKE#1!
Mike Baron & Bill Reinhold's "Heavy Hitter" premieres with a special cover!

Spyke™ & © 1993 Mike Baron & Bill Reinhold



MORBIUS #11!
The conclusion to the story begun in NIGHTSTALKERS #9!



CONAN #270!
Conan faces the Devourer of the Dead!



MARVEL AGE #126!
Details galore on what we have in store for Summer 1993!



CYBERSPACE 3000 #1!
Marvel UK's science fiction saga premieres with a cover with glow-in-the-dark detail!

Cyberspace 3000™ & © 1993 Marvel UK Ltd.

MARVEL COMICS

MARVEL COMICS SHIPPING THE WEEK OF MAY 18TH